

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 172478
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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S/S-O:JTHYDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE 0396

S E C R E T STATE 172478

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, CU

SUBJECT: SECURITY GUARD DETENTION

REF: HAVANA 1903

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATE'S POST'S PROMPT AND DETAILED
REPORTING OF INCIDENT. MANNER IN WHICH POST HAS HANDLED
INCIDENT ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE.

2. WE WISH TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO GOC THAT WE WILL NOT
ACCEPT SUCH TREATMENT OF OUR PERSONNEL IN HAVANA. AT
SAME TIME, HOWEVER, WE DO NOT WISH TO BLOW INCIDENT OUT OF
PROPORTION OR GIVE GOC IMPRESSION WE WISH TO MAKE MAJOR
ISSUE OF IT. WE DO NOT INTEND TO MAKE ANY PUBLIC

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STATEMENTS AND HOPE MATTER WILL BE CLOSED WITH PRESENTATION
OF YOUR NOTE AND RETURN OF BELONGINGS.

3. DEPARTMENT WOULD SUGGEST NOTE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES
TO BE PRESENTED AT YOUR DISCRETION TO MINREX:

QUOTE. INTERESTS SECTION WISHES TO PROTEST THE UNWARRANTED

DETENTION OF ONE OF ITS EMPLOYEES, MR. KURTIS LEON JOHNSON.
THE LATTER WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY CUBAN AUTHORITIES ON

JULY 5 NEAR BOCA DE JARUCO WHILE HE WAS ON BICYCLE RIDE.
MR. JOHNSON DID NOT PHOTOGRAPH MILITARY INSTALLATIONS OR
UNITS OR VIOLATE ANY OTHER LAWS OR REGULATIONS OF
THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA. HIS DETENTION, THEREFORE, WAS
COMPLETELY UNWARRANTED.

THE INTERESTS SECTION REQUESTS THE ASSURANCES OF THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS THAT THERE WILL BE NO
REPETITION OF THIS UNCALLED FOR DETENTION OF ONE OF ITS
PERSONNEL.

THE INTERESTS SECTION ALSO REQUESTS THAT MR. JOHNSON'S
CAMERA, LENSES AND BICYCLE, ALL OF WHICH WERE CONFISCATED
BY CUBAN AUTHORITIES, BE IMMEDIATELY TURNED OVER TO THE
INTERESTS SECTION SO THAT THEY CAN BE RETURNED TO THE
OWNER. UNQUOTE

4. DEPARTMENT ASSUMES POST WILL CAUTION MARINES, AND
OTHER PERSONNEL AS APPROPRIATE, ON NEED TO OBSERVE PRECAU-
TIONS, SUCH AS TRAVELING IN PAIRS IN INTERIOR AND HAVING
PASSPORTS OR OTHER REQUIRED IDENTITY DOCUMENTS AT ALL
TIMES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, DETENTION, INSTRUCTIONS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition Remarks:
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